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TWO LETTERS FROM CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY TO RALPH IZARD

(From Collection of South Carolina Historical Society)

[1]

(Address missing)

Charleston Nov^r: 5th: 1794

Dear S^r:

By Strong we had expected the pleasure of Mrs. Izard's Company; but as she has preferred the Journey by Land I have agreeable to your desire written to M^r; Chesnutt, & I have no doubt but that he will pay her every attention when she arrives at Camden, and we still flatter ourselves we shall be favoured with her Company when she comes to Charleston—

From one of her letters to Mrs. Pinckney I find I have not received one or two of your Letters, and that one of mine has miscarried—In that I informed you that Mr. Hamilton¹ the Ship Builder did not chuse to be concerned in the Building of a Frigate; that Mr. Pritchard² thought it might be done here, and that Capt^a. George³ said he would undertake it; I also inclosed you Copies of Capt. Mayrant's⁴ Commission and Certificates, and which I also now inclose, that if more Frigates should be put into Commission he may be in the way of promotion—a Letter from the Secretary of War to me has also miscarried, as in a Letter of his to the Governor, he directs him to cause a certain vessel to be delivered up to the original owners, and mentions to him “that if he did not chuse to execute the order I could, and that a copy of the order and of the Letter was sent to me for that purpose—”

This Letter the Governor shewed to Judge Bee and to Mr. Holmes the Collector, and at the same time caused the vessel to be delivered up, but no copy of it, or of the order ever came to me—

¹ David Hamilton; he married in 1774, Elizabeth Reynolds, stepdaughter to the elder Paul Pritchard.

² Probably Wm. Pritchard; Paul Pritchard the elder, and first shipbuilder here of that name, was dead by this date.

³ James George, a sea captain.

⁴ John Mayrant.

The Letters I received from the Secretary at War were previous to this, and had no allusion to the vessel which was the subject of this Letter—I wish I could discover the rascals who amuse themselves in interrupting my Correspondence—By Capt. Strong I send a small Box with two articles sent in it, to be altered agreeable to the paper in the Box, also 25 Dollars with which I will beg you to pay the inclosed Bill [of] Gardelters, and to return the Articles when altered either by Strong or any other safe opportunity.

I am just setting out for the review of the Southern regiments, and on my return shall not remain in Charleston above three days before I set out for Columbia where I expect to have a very disagreeable sessions owing to, the Appian politics—

With great regard and Esteem I remain

Y^r friend

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY.

[2]

Honble
Ralph Izard

Charleston Dec^r. 26th: 1794.

Dear S^r:

On the 20th instant I wrote to you from Columbia, and gave you an account of our Elections and the termination of the Appian business; this Letter will be confined altogether to the management of your plantating Interest. Mr. Owen called on me yesterday and we had a long conversation on that subject. I find with 220 workers you have not made this year more rice than E Rutledge and myself have at Charleywood with ninety; That in some of your plantations there has been considerable embezzlement; and that on your plantation where you make most to the hand and really a good crop, there is no overseer but only a Black Driver—From hence I conclude that your planting Interest is most abominably managed, and that it will continue to be so while Mr. Pryor has anything to do with it—He is infirm, unwieldy, without activity *Monstrum, horrendum, informe, ingens, cui lumen ademptum*.—⁵ It is impossible for him, (if he had the inclination) to look after your business with the attention it requires,

⁵ Virgil: AE. Lib. III, 658.

and both Mr. Owen and myself are of the opinion that it is essential to your Interest that Mr. Pryor should be dismissed. Fraser is dead—Mr. Owen thinks Mr. Perry might be prevailed on to superintend it, if that could be accomplished, as he already rides through your plantations twice or thrice a week, and is an excellent Planter. it would be most a desirable object—But if Mr. Perry should decline this business I think that you had better let Mr. Owen direct as he did in 1777 when without the Santee Negroes, you made fifteen hundred Barrells of Rice, whereas this year with the addition of the Santee Negroes will not make a thousand. I have thus frankly given you my sentiments on your affairs, you however are the best judge how they should be conducted and will act accordingly.

I inclose a paper with the additional Militia Act and the Numbers of the Divisions Brigades and regiments which I will request you to shew with my Compts to Generals Pickens and Winn—accept the Compliments of the Season and be assured I am

Your friend

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY.

Honblr Ralph Izard Esq.

(*Endorsed*)

Charleston Decr: 26th 1794

From Genl. Pinckney.